

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 DPW-01 DRC-01 /127 W

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R 151655Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8760

INFO AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USMISSION GENEVA

USLO PEKING

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 03335

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, UK, VN

SUBJECT: AFTERMATH OF UK VOTE AGAINST PRG IN LAW OF WAR
CONFERENCE

REF: LONDON 1298 (NOTAL)

1. WHILE THANKING CHAPMAN OF SOUTHEAST ASIA DEPT, FCO,
FOR UK HELP ON ISSUE OF PRG SEATING IN LAW OF WAR CON-
FERENCE, HE REPORTED THAT DRV HAD NOTED UK ACTION AND
TAKEN RETALIATORY ACTION. SPECIFIC MEANS OF EXPRESSING
DRV DISPLEASURE WAS AFP STORY FROM HANOI ATTRIBUTED TO
AUTHORITATIVE NORTH VIETNAMESE SOURCE - ACTUALLY FOREIGN
MINISTER TRINH.

2. STORY SAID THAT RELATIONS WITH FRANCE, JAPAN AND UK
ARE UNDER CLOSE SCRUTINY BY DRV BECAUSE OF VOTES IN LAW
OF WAR CONFERENCE. STORY WENT ON TO SAY THAT UK REPRE-
SENTATIVE FAWCETT WAS NOT BEING ALLOWED TO PRESENT CRE-
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DENTIALS BECAUSE UK IS SLAVISHLY FOLLOWING U.S. LINE ON

PRG - THAT DRV VIEWS FAWCETT ONLY AS CHARGE D'AFFAIRES. THIS IS MOST DISTASTEFUL TO HMG BECAUSE FAWCETT DESIGNATION AS AMBASSADOR AND DRV AGREEMENT HAVE BEEN ANNOUNCED PUBLICLY.

3. CHAPMAN DOES NOT EXPECT THAT HMG WILL MAKE AN ISSUE OF FAWCETT DESIGNATION FOR SOME MONTHS. IF FORTHCOMING ECAFE CONFERENCE REQUIRES ANOTHER NEGATIVE VOTE BY UK ON PRG, HOWEVER, DRV MAY FEEL CONSTRAINED TO TAKE HARSHER ACTION AGAINST FAWCETT.

4. IN THIS CONNECTION, CHAPMAN ASKED FOR U.S. VIEWS ON USEFULNESS OF CONTINUING UK REPRESENTATION IN HANOI. HE SAID THAT UK HAS ALMOST NO BI-LATERAL REQUIREMENT FOR MAINTAINING A MISSION BUT HAS HOPED IT WAS USEFUL TO U.S. TO HAVE A WESTERN PRESENCE THERE. IF USG SEES NO VALUE IN UK REPRESENTATION AND IF DRV CONTINUES TO BE DIFFICULT ABOUT FAWCETT DESIGNATION HMG MIGHT WELL BE PREPARED TO WITHDRAW ALL REPRESENTATIVES. PLEASE GIVE GUIDANCE FOR ANSWER TO CHAPMAN ON THIS POINT.

SOHM

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LAW, WAR, FOREIGN RELATIONS, MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS, MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 MAR 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974LONDON03335
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: LONDON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740340/aaaablpj.tel
Line Count: 83
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: LONDON 1298 (NOTAL)
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <24 APR 2002 by ifshinsr>; APPROVED <30 JAN 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AFTERMATH OF UK VOTE AGAINST PRG IN LAW OF WAR CONFERENCE
TAGS: PFOR, UK, VN
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005